

them if there was some way to allow him to communicate. They were told, no way, nothing was going on in Rick's brain.

"Tell him a joke," Mr. Hoyt said. "They did. Rick laughed." They had noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room. There was a lot going on in Rick's brain.

The engineers rigged up a computer that Rick could peck letters on by hitting it with a stick attached to the side of his head. His first words were, "Go Bruins!"

After a high school classmate of Rick's was paralyzed in an accident, and a charity run was organized, Rick pecked out the words, "Dad, I want to do that."

Mr. Hoyt, who called himself a porker, pushed Rick in that race, and Rick typed out "Dad, when we were running, it felt like I was not disabled anymore."

Now, here comes the amazing part.

Since that first race, Dick Hoyt has pushed Rick in 85 marathons, 26.2 miles each. Twenty-four times they have run in the Boston Marathon.

Listen to Rick Reilly's column: "Their best time, 2 hours 40, minutes in 1992; only 35 minutes off the world record which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time."

Now Dick Hoyt is 65, his son is 43. They have done 212 triathlons, including four grueling, 15-hour Ironmans in Hawaii, 8 triathlons altogether where the father not only pushed his son 26.2 miles in a wheelchair, but also pulled him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming, and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars, all in the same day.

Columnist Reilly wrote, "I try to be a good father, but compared with Dick Hoyt I suck."

What a special son. What a special father. What a special story.

I thank Rick Reilly for writing such a wonderful column.

It is an honor to pay tribute to a man like Dick Hoyt.

I am sure that his special relationship with his son has inspired countless numbers across the land and has, in a very unique way, made this Nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is the most inspiring story I have ever read. I would like to attach the column from Sports Illustrated to my remarks here tonight and call them to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From Sports Illustrated]

STRONGEST DAD IN THE WORLD

(By Rick Reilly)

I try to be a good father. Give my kids mulligans. Work nights to pay for their text messaging. Take them to swimsuit shoots.

But compared with Dick Hoyt, I suck.

Eighty-five times he's pushed his disabled son, Rick, 26.2 miles in marathons. Eight times he's not only pushed him 26.2 miles in

a wheelchair but also towed him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars—all in the same day.

Dick's also pulled him cross-country skiing, taken him on his back mountain climbing and once hauled him across the U.S. on a bike. Makes taking your son bowling look a little lame, right?

And what has Rick done for his father? Not much—except save his life.

This love story began in Winchester, Mass., 43 years ago, when Rick was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him brain-damaged and unable to control his limbs.

"He'll be a vegetable the rest of his life," Dick says doctors told him and his wife, Judy, when Rick was nine months old. "Put him in an institution."

But the Hoyts weren't buying it. They noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room. When Rick was 11 they took him to the engineering department at Tufts University and asked if there was anything to help the boy communicate. "No way," Dick says he was told. "There's nothing going on in his brain."

"Tell him a joke," Dick countered. They did. Rick laughed. Turns out a lot was going on in his brain.

Rigged up with a computer that allowed him to control the cursor by touching a switch with the side of his head, Rick was finally able to communicate. First words? "Go Bruins!" And after a high school classmate was paralyzed in an accident and the school organized a charity run for him, Rick pecked out, "Dad, I want to do that."

Yeah, right. How was Dick, a self-described "porker" who never ran more than a mile at a time, going to push his son five miles? Still, he tried. "Then it was me who was handicapped," Dick says. "I was sore for two weeks."

That day changed Rick's life. "Dad," he typed, "when we were running, it felt like I wasn't disabled anymore!"

And that sentence changed Dick's life. He became obsessed with giving Rick that feeling as often as he could. He got into such hard-belly shape that he and Rick were ready to try the 1979 Boston Marathon.

"No way," Dick was told by a race official. The Hoyts weren't quite a single runner, and they weren't quite a wheelchair competitor. For a few years Dick and Rick just joined the massive field and ran anyway, then they found a way to get into the race officially: In 1983 they ran another marathon so fast they made the qualifying time for Boston the following year.

Then somebody said, "Hey, Dick, why not a triathlon?"

How's a guy who never learned to swim and hadn't ridden a bike since he was six going to haul his 110-pound kid through a triathlon? Still, Dick tried.

Now they've done 212 triathlons, including four grueling 15-hour Ironmans in Hawaii. It must be a buzzkill to be a 25-year-old stud getting passed by an old guy towing a grown man in a dinghy, don't you think?

Hey, Dick, why not see how you'd do on your own? "No way," he says. Dick does it purely for "the awesome feeling" he gets seeing Rick with a cantaloupe smile as they run, swim and ride together.

This year, at ages 65 and 43, Dick and Rick finished their 24th Boston Marathon, in 5,083rd place out of more than 20,000 starters. Their best time? Two hours, 40 minutes in 1992—only 35 minutes off the world record, which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time.

"No question about it," Rick types. "My dad is the Father of the Century."

And Dick got something else out of all this too. Two years ago he had a mild heart attack during a race. Doctors found that one of his arteries was 95% clogged. "If you hadn't been in such great shape," one doctor told him, "you probably would've died 15 years ago."

So, in a way, Dick and Rick saved each other's life.

Rick, who has his own apartment (he gets home care) and works in Boston, and Dick, retired from the military and living in Holland, Mass., always find ways to be together. They give speeches around the country and compete in some backbreaking race every weekend, including this Father's Day.

That night, Rick will buy his dad dinner, but the thing he really wants to give him is a gift he can never buy.

"The thing I'd most like," Rick types, "is that my dad sit in the chair and I push him once."

STILL NO ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk, sadly, about the fact that America once again is completing another month, another halfway through another year, with no energy policy.

Is it important that we have an energy policy? Should we have an energy policy? Well, I happen to think we should. With oil approaching \$60 a barrel and natural gas at \$7.50 today, that is the highest fuel prices this country has faced, ever.

Gasoline, we hear a lot about. In the last 20 years, gasoline prices have increased 86 percent. It is on the news every night. We talk about it as if it is a tragedy. Now, it is painful, because it costs all of us more to drive than we would like. But we have choices there: what size vehicle, what kind of mileage it has, and what trips we take.

But in natural gas, the people that use natural gas heat their homes, provide their air-conditioning, run their businesses. They cannot make those same choices. Natural gas prices have increased in the same length of time 550 percent. I want to tell my colleagues, if you heard complaints last winter about natural gas prices for heating our homes, next year is going to be a lot more difficult. Because the gas we put in the ground today will have been paid \$7.50 for, and last year at this time it was less than \$5 that we were putting into the ground. We put it in storage in the ground at this time of year so we have enough in the winter.

We are now 62 to 64 percent dependent on foreign countries for oil. On natural gas, we are 88 percent self-sufficient. We import about 11 percent from Canada and 1 percent is from liquefied natural gas. Like I said before, \$60-a-barrel oil is painful but, in my view, \$7.50 and continuing rising natural gas prices has the ability to kill our economy, and I will tell my colleagues why.

We are an island to ourselves with natural gas prices. When we pay \$55 or

\$60 for oil, the whole world pays that, all our competitors pay that, and we are a very competitive global economy. But when we pay \$7.50 for natural gas, Canada pays about \$6. Europe is in the \$5 range. China, our big competitor, pays \$4, giving them another advantage on top of cheap labor and all the other ways they manipulate the economy.

Trinidad in northern South America, \$1.60. Russia, 90 cents, North Africa, 80 cents. Because of these prices for natural gas and a government here in Washington who will do nothing about it, three industries are leaving our country that are some of the best-paying jobs we have left. Twenty-one fertilizer factories that our farmers depend on closed last year. Why? Because their number one ingredient to make fertilizer is natural gas as an ingredient and as a fuel to make it. The petrochemical companies, again, 40 to 55 percent of their cost is natural gas. They are leaving as we speak. The polymers in plastics, the best jobs in America, are leaving as we speak.

We could be totally self-sufficient on natural gas if we made the right decisions. We need to open up many areas of the West that have been locked up, and we need to streamline the permitting process so that natural gas can move forward timely. We need to open up the Outer Continental Shelf, where there is enough gas to totally supply this country for 50, 60 years without any question.

With the clean fuel, natural gas is the clean fuel. No NO_x, no SO_x, a fourth of the CO₂; it is the nonpolluting fuel, it is the one we ought to be using. We could be using it in vehicles, we could be using it in a lot of ways that we are not using it today to need less oil. But we must open the production of natural gas on our Outer Continental Shelf. Every country in the world, Canada, does and sells it to us. They drill in our Great Lakes and sell it to us. Europe, Germany, England, Norway, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand all produce gas on the Outer Continental Shelf, with no negative impact.

A natural gas well is not an environmental hazard. It is a 6-inch hole in the ground with a steel casing cemented at the bottom and at the top, and you let gas out. It is a gas that is a clean burning fuel. And when you are 40 or 50 miles offshore, nobody knows they are there. There are fine beaches where natural gas is produced. There is fine recreation, there is fine fisheries.

Natural gas is the bridge to the future of America's economy, and if this Congress does not do something about it, they are going to give the best jobs in America to the rest of the world. In fact, last year one of our major chemical companies moved 2,000 jobs to Germany; not a cheap market.

Mr. Speaker, my conclusion is the number one issue facing the economy of this country is the availability and the price of natural gas and the decision is in our hands, this Congress' hands, and we need to make it soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KELLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

IMPLEMENTING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"). The Agreement represents an historic development in our relations with Central America and the Dominican Republic and reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy, regional integration, and economic growth and opportunity in a region that has transitioned to peaceful, democratic societies.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Central America and the Dominican Republic constitute our second largest export market in Latin America and our tenth largest export market in the world. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses by opening new markets and eliminating barriers. United States agricultural exports will obtain better access to the millions of consumers in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on approximately 80 percent of U.S. exports will be eliminated immediately. The Agreement will help to level the playing field because about 80 percent of Central America's imports already enjoy duty-free access to our market. By providing for the effective enforcement of labor and environmental laws,

combined with strong remedies for noncompliance, the Agreement will contribute to improved worker rights and high levels of environmental protection in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

By supporting this Agreement, the United States can stand with those in the region who stand for democracy and freedom, who are fighting corruption and crime, and who support the rule of law. A stable, democratic, and growing Central America and Dominican Republic strengthens the United States economically and provides greater security for our citizens.

The Agreement is in our national interest, and I urge the Congress to approve it expeditiously.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2005.

□ 1900

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-37)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on June 25, 2004, 69 FR 36005.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, I amended Executive Order 13219 in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, to address acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework